

## Message Text

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43

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

NSAE-00 SCA-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 INR-07 /040 W

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P 141500Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5037

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0123

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PINS, PFOR, ASEC

SUBJ: VISIT OF TWO JORDANIANS TO EMBASSY

REF: BUDAPEST 0110 AND 0111, BUCHAREST 0222, AMMAN 0206

1. ABDEL FATAH AHMED JODALLA ABUMUKEISEN CAME UNACCOMPANIED TO EMBASSY MIDDAY JANUARY 14. CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF SPOKE TO HIM FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES IN AN UNCROWDED CORNER OF EMBASSY LOBBY UNDER HEAVY BUT HIDDEN MSG SURVEILLANCE.

2. CONOFF TOOK SYMPATHETIC TACK THAT WE HAD REGARDED JODALLA'S JANUARY 13 APPROACH VERY SERIOUSLY AND HAD FORTHWITH INVESTIGATED ALLEGATION OF USG PRESSURE ON ROMANIANS TO REFUSE HIM VISA BOTH WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY BUCHAREST AND ROMANIAN EMBASSY BUDAPEST. AS A RESULT, CONOFF COULD PERSONALLY ASSURE JODALLA USG WAS IN NO WAY INVOLVED IN HIS ROMANIAN VISA DIFFICULTIES. CONOFF NOTED SURPRISE ROMANIAN EMBASSY HAD EXPRESSED AT THE SUGGESTION OF SUCH AN IDEA, AND EMPHASIZED THAT EMBASSY BUCHAREST HAD DISCLAIMED ANY SUCH ACTION.

3. AS JODALLA APPEARED MORE COMPOSED THAN ON PREVIOUS VISIT (ALTHOUGH STILL VERY EMOTIONAL), CONOFF ENCOURAGED HIM TO TALK ABOUT HIMSELF. HE SAID HE RESIDED IN ROMANIA FROM 1967 TO JANUARY 1974, AND MARRIED A ROMANIAN GIRL THERE IN 1968. THE MARRIAGE PRODUCED TWO CHILDREN. IN JANUARY 1974, FOR REASONS  
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UNKNOWN TO HIM, ROMANIANS REQUIRED HIM TO LEAVE ABOARD A SHIP

BOUND FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN, AND HE DEBARKED AT HAIFA. HE SUBSEQUENTLY WORKED AS A "TRANSLATOR" FOR, AMONG OTHERS, EL FATAH, IN LIBYA AND ELSEWHERE.

4. IN REPLY TO QUERIES, JODALLA STATED SOURCE OF INFORMATION THAT USG WAS CAUSING HIM ROMANIAN VISA DIFFICULTIES WAS "PALESTINE COMMANDOS" WHILE HE WAS IN LIBYA, WHO PASSED ON REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT FROM A ROMANIAN MILITARY OFFICIAL NAMED "DI CAROL" OR "DI CARL," ON "PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU'S STAFF." JODALLA SAID THIS INDIVIDUAL FREQUENTLY "JOKED" AT THE EXPENSE OF JEWS AND ARABS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN ROMANIA. IN A CONSCIOUS EFFORT TO DISSOCIATE IN JODALLA'S MIND THE U.S. FROM ANY SUCH ANTI-ARAB ACTIVITY CONSUL REITERATED THE CARE WITH WHICH WE HAD INVESTIGATED THE ALLEGATION, AND JODALLA EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF OUR HAVING DONE SO.

5. IN REPLY TO FURTHER QUERIES, JODALLA STATED HE HAD HAD NO CONTACT WITH HIS WIFE BY CORRESPONDENCE OR OTHERWISE SINCE LEAVING ROMANIA IN EARLY 1974. EXPRESSING CONCERN MAINLY FOR THE CHILDREN, HE ASKED CONSUL'S ADVICE AS TO WHAT TO DO. CONSUL REGRETTED U.S. INABILITY TO REPRESENT HIM DIPLOMATICALLY SINCE HE WAS NOT A USC, AND RECOMMENDED HE PRESENT THE MATTER THROUGH A JORDANIAN EMBASSY. JODALLA REPLIED HE HAD EFFECTIVELY RULED THAT OUT SINCE JORDANIAN EMBASSIES DID NOT ANSWER HIS CORRESPONDENCE. HE ALSO ASKED CONSUL'S ADVICE ABOUT ATTEMPTING TO ENTER ROMANIA ON BASIS OF THE APPARENTLY-STILL-VALID ROMANIAN VISA IN HIS PASSPORT. CONSUL ADVISED HIM NO, IN VIEW POSSIBILITY HE MIGHT BE JAILED IF HE DID EFFECT ENTRY AND WAS FOUND OUT, OR DIFFICULTIES IN REENTERING HUNGARY SHOULD HE BE TURNED BACK AT BORDER. JODALLA SAID HE WOULD ACCEPT CONSUL'S ADVICE AND THAT HE PLANNED TO RETURN TO VIENNA JANUARY 15, THE EXPIRATION DATE OF HIS CURRENT HUNGARIAN STAYING PERMIT.

6. CONSUL ASKED JODALLA ABOUT NAME "TADALLA" BY WHICH ROMANIANS APPARENTLY KNOW HIM (BUDAPEST 0111). HE REPLIED JODALLA WAS HIS TRUE NAME BUT THAT HE HAD SOMETIMES BEEN KNOWN AS TADALLA.

7. NEITHER CONSUL NOR JODALLA RAISED IN THIS INTERVIEW THE SUBSTANCE OF JODALLA'S PREVIOUS CONTACT WITH EMBASSY BUCHAREST. JODALLA DID REITERATE THAT HE HAD COME TO EMBASSY BUDAPEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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AID IN ENTERING ROMANIA, NOT IN GETTING HIS FAMILY OUT.

8. COMMENT: CONSUL HAD PITCHED INTERVIEW IN A FRIENDLY TONE, AND SO IT WAS. AMMAN'S 0206 WAS RECEIVED DURING INTERVIEW AND CONSUL DID NOKHEE IT UNTIL LATER. IN LIGHT OF THAT TELEGRAM'S INFORMATION, JODALLA'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH FAMILY ASSUMES PARTICULAR INTEREST GIVEN HIS ASSERTED DESIRE TO SEE THEM NOW. OF COURSE SOME ARABS CAN BE SKILLED DRAMATISTS,

AND IF JODALLA WAS DISSEMBLING, HE WAS A FINE ACTOR INDEED.

9. CASE APPEARS NOW CLOSED AT BUDAPEST. EMBASSY DEEPLY  
GRATEFUL TO EMBASSY BUCHAREST AND EMBASSY AMMAN FOR SPEEDY,  
USEFUL RESPONSES TO OUR REFTELS.

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